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if the new Australian Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology is not to outstrip them. We have, in this volume, a concise history of the rainfall of Victoria since records have been taken. This is the first publication to embody such information under one cover. Tabulations are given of all available annual totals and number of days for 1114 stations, many of the records going back to 1875 and earlier. Annual rainfall maps for each year from 1878 to 1910 have been included, in order to make the work complete for reference and comparison. An "authentic average rainfall map" is also included, as is a diagram showing the annual variation of rainfall of the whole state from the mean, and a map giving the average rainfall for the wheat-growing period. This makes, altogether, a very complete and welcome report on the rainfall of an important district.

R. DEC. WARD.

## EUROPE

**How to See Italy by Rail.** By Douglas Sladen. xxvi and 566 pp. Map, illus., index. James Pott & Co., New York, 1912. \$3. 8½ x 5½.

The library of books on Italy is a large one, and the tourist who includes in his itinerary a smattering of many things in western Europe must be confused when he attempts to prepare himself for a brief journey across Italy. The guide which one needs must be like this book, not burdensome with details, but comprehensive, pointing out with a sure hand the most salient features along the route and imbued with enthusiasm. This book is not a Baedeker, but it is a book which will supplement the Baedeker as no other book can. It is more than a guide book, for besides the discrimination which it shows, the book adds the boon of inspiration, for the writer loves his Italy, without which the visitor to this sunny land travels in vain.

The book opens with a number of chapters which rehearse the charm of Italy—the charm of scenery, of architecture, of painting and of sculpture. This is followed by an account of railroad routes. All of this is general and covers Italy as a whole; but the bulk of the book is filled with directions related to all the provinces of Italy except four, as Lombardy, Venice and its people, Genoa and its Riviera and so on to Sicily. The last part of the book is a listed guide to galleries, churches, painters, sculptors, monuments, Sicilian and Roman sights and hotels.

The whole is conveniently arranged and the book is written with the belief that "Italy is the finest holiday ground in the world." The author is generous with his photographs which are excellent in quality and in the subjects. A number of small maps would have added to the value of the book.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

**Italy in the Thirteenth Century.** By Henry Dwight Sedgwick. Vol. 1: x and 440 pp. Map, illus. Vol. 2: 395 pp. Ills., index. Houghton Mifflin Co., New York, 1912. \$5. 2 vols. 8½ x 6 each.

It is greatly to be regretted that Mr. Sedgwick did not think it advisable to coordinate this work of brilliant scholarship upon a base of the geography of northern Italy and the northern half of the peninsula with which his research has busied itself. The period of his loosely connected chapters was the very flower of a culture than which there was none so fair in Christendom, yet it was soon to sink into decay and pettiness until the coming of the New Learning should bring the world a new age. The theatre on which were played the dramas of the petty sovereignties is, above all others, dependent upon the means of communication and these in turn upon the geographic structure of the land, its streams and its mountain masses. The chapters in these two volumes are scarcely continuous, they become disconnected essays; yet with a proper consideration of the underlying geography it would have been possible to show that the rise of this city to power and the decadence of that other, that the growth now of Medici and now of Malatesta, all fit into an harmonious whole under the governance of natural law. The work, however,